

Good morning, my name is Ramogi Huma. I'm a former UCLA football player and the President of the NCPA, the National College Players Association. The NCPA is a nonprofit advocacy group made up of over 14,000 Division I student-athletes from universities in Connecticut and across the nation. I'm here to declare the NCPA's support for HB 5415.

The majority of high school recruits, who are typically only 16 and 17 years old, are deciding which college to attend based on false information given to them by athletic recruiters.

As a result, most recruits and their parents have no idea that colleges can leave them with sports-related medical expenses, take away their scholarship for any reason, leave them with tens of thousands of dollars in educational-related expenses, and hold their eligibility and scholarship opportunities hostage when they try to transfer schools.

Under NCAA rules, colleges are not required to pay for ANY sports related medical expenses – its optional. So, if a player breaks his leg in the national championship game, that school is not required to pay one penny of the medical expenses. In fact, The NY Times reported extensively about student-athletes stuck with sports-related medical bills.

My organization attempted to get all NCAA Division I colleges to disclose a handful of key medical policies. For instance, who is responsible for sports related deductibles and coinsurance? Unfortunately, 90% of Division I universities refused our request to voluntarily disclose their medical policies so that recruits would be more informed.

Also, universities across the nation offer recruits "full" athletic scholarships that are not truly full. In fact, NCAA rules cap every athletic scholarship in the nation below the cost of attendance.

Last year, the NCPA conducted a joint study with Ithaca College. Using the cost of attendance numbers that schools report to the U.S. Department of Education, we found that the average full scholarship leaves student-athletes with \$3000/year in educational related expenses. The scholarship shortfall ranges from as low as

\$200/year to more than \$6000/year depending on the school. Recruits don't know that a scholarship shortfall even exists, much less how much the shortfall is from one school to the next.

For all of these reasons, the NCPA sponsored The Student-Athletes Right to Know Act in California, which won approval. Beginning in 2012, all of California's universities will post a handful of key policies and practices online. This will allow recruits and their parents to make an informed decision about which college to attend. This bill fully complies with NCAA rules and none of California's colleges opposed it.

I am here to urge the state of Connecticut to do the same and adopt language identical to that of the California law. Otherwise, even the most knowledgeable recruits who ask all of the right questions will be forced to rely on verbal promises from athletic recruiters.

Thank you.

### Notes

Compliance for this bill will require very few resources since every school already has a system to comply with an ever-changing 400 page NCAA rule book. These schools don't spend significant resources each time there's an NCAA rule change.

Can help protect Connecticut schools from financial liabilities related to the lawsuits that other universities have endured for breaking their verbal promises. i.e.

NCPA Schools: University of Connecticut, Quinnipiac, Hartford

Example: Elizabeth Marini – Quinnipiac field hockey – after promising four years on scholarship, her coach told her she wouldn't have her scholarship going into senior season – Quinnipiac also stopped paying for her sports-related medical expenses.